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A lesson in budgeting

Dan Walters, the knowledgeable Sacramento Bee columnist who doesn't spare the criticism when politicians are unsparing with the public treasury, has some kind words on the facing Comment page today for the city of Long Beach. The city deserves it.

You probably thought we'd add a yes-but, since we've been pretty critical on these pages about free-spending at City Hall. And we will. But Walters is altogether right in saying that Sacramento politicians should take a lesson from Long Beach.

Voters made a mistake in using their pique at political infighting as a reason for not approving a spending cap in the state's recent special election. But that's done. Now their best chance is that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislators don't take that rejection too much to heart and instead do what Long Beach did.

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Now for the yes-but: There still is that matter of the last \$10 million of the deficit. Could the City Council, having gone this far in showing Sacramento how to clean up a budget fall short of the goal?

There's no turning around now.



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